On MAY 31, 1788, *was published*,

(PRICE SIXPENCE)

And will be continued every SATURDAY,

NUMBER I.

OF A

GENERAL COLLECTION

OF

VOYAGES:

UNDERTAKEN EITHER FOR

DISCOVERY, CONQUEST, SETTLEMENT,

OR THE

OPENING OF TRADE,

FROM THE

COMMENCEMENT OF THE PORTUGUESE DISCOVERIES TO THE PRESENT TIME.

NO one of the ſciences or arts has done more honour to human invention than NAVIGATION, and none has more liberally rewarded the labours of mankind. To Navigation, we are indebted for many of the neceſſaries, but more of the comforts of life: by her means, the moſt diſtant countries have communication together, and reciprocally adminiſter to each others wants.

In the improvements of this noble ſcience, Great Britain has ſhone eminently diſtinguiſhed; yet it is certain, that adventures and undertakings at ſea, have not been recorded in this country in the manner they merit.

We have, undoubtedly, ſome noble editions of detached voyages, but a general collection, of modern date, does not exiſt in Britain. The compilations of Hackluit, Purchas, and Harris, have their merit, but the latter has been publiſhed near half, and the two former more than a whole century, conſequently cannot include any of the modern voyages; in ſome of which, many of the nobleſt diſcoveries have been made; nor are they formed upon a ſcale ſufficiently extenſive.

The

*EB75. R3968.788o
Y74-1909

The work now offered to the Public, is a General Collection of Voyages, performed by Engliſhmen and Foreigners, compiled (as nearly as poſſible) in chronological order, ſo as to form a complete hiſtory of the progreſs of Navigation.

It is obvious that ſuch a collection will unavoidably ſwell to a conſiderable ſize; and the proprietors freely confeſs, it is not their intention to circumſcribe it within too narrow bounds. They will be more ſtudious to improve than to confine their work, it being the height of their ambition to render this the firſt publication of the kind in the world.

The plan they have formed for the compilation is, that all the early voyages ſhall be printed at large, excepting ſuch parts only, as are too trivial to deſerve notice, and which would increaſe the work too conſiderably: where any other voyager has afterwards purſued the ſame tract, what is new only will be inſerted; but all variations will be carefully marked, and particular attention paid to do juſtice to every one, who, by his diſcoveries, or remarks, hath contributed to the information of mankind.

Copious Prefaces will be annexed to the different voyages, where neceſſary, and where any authentic information reſpecting the adventurer, the motives of the undertaking, or any other circumſtances deſerving notice, can be obtained. In this compilation, ſome voyages will be introduced, that have not been tranſlated into Engliſh, and others which have not appeared in print. The proprietors will be happy to receive any manuſcript voyage of authenticity and merit.

As the length of this work cannot be aſcertained, the proprietors pledge themſelves it ſhall not be unneceſſarily lengthened, and they will exert themſelves to make it reſpectable both to their country and themſelves.

For the conveniency of thoſe who may wiſh to poſſeſs ſo valuable a publication, but whom it may not ſuit to purchaſe at once, and alſo to afford the public an opportunity to judge of the execution, in the early ſtage of it, the publication will be in weekly numbers.

Each number will contain three ſheets of letter-preſs, in quarto, or two ſheets and a copper-plate. The paper of the beſt kind: the types new, caſt for the purpoſe by Mr. Caſlon, letter-founder to his Majeſty; and the maps and plates engraved by ſome of the moſt able artiſts of the age.

Publiſhed by W. Richardson, Royal-Exchange; J Bew, Paternoſter-row; R. Faulder and T. Hookham, New Bond-ſtreet; J. and T. Egerton, Whitehall; C. Stalker, Stationers-court, Ludgate-ſtreet; E. and T. Williams, Strand; Knight, Windſor; and Timbs, Worceſter.